

# AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Winter 2004

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**State FFA Officers Announce State Convention Plans**

State FFA Officers, from left, Vice President **Bryan W. Lowman**, Secretary **Allison Waggoner**, President **John A. Lesaine Jr.**, Vice President **Lauren Holden**, Vice President **Alex D. Gleason** and Vice President **Rachel McLeod**.



**Lee's Homeplace Hydroponic Tomatoes**

## More Features

**Witherspoon, Kelly Receive National Awards**

**Edsel Williams is President-Elect of National Young Farmer Education Association**

**State Young Farmer and Agribusiness Awards**

**Clemson Collegiate FFA Update**

**High School Horticulture Students are Successful at Spartanburg Technical College**



**John W. Parris**  
Executive Director,  
Office of Public Affairs

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# 2004 State FFA Convention Announced

**T**he State FFA Officer Team has announced that the State FFA Convention is scheduled to be held at Clemson University, June 9-11, 2004. Most sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts on the campus.

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association/ SC FFA Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, June 9, at the Walker Course on the Clemson University campus. The first- and second-place adult teams and youth teams will be awarded cash prizes. FFA Chapter teams are encouraged to pre-register as soon as possible.

A number of State Career Development Events will be held Thursday, June 10, including agricultural issues, farm business management, agricultural mechanics, parliamentary procedure, prepared public speaking, extemporaneous speaking, FFA Creed speaking and the Greenhand Knowledge Bowl.

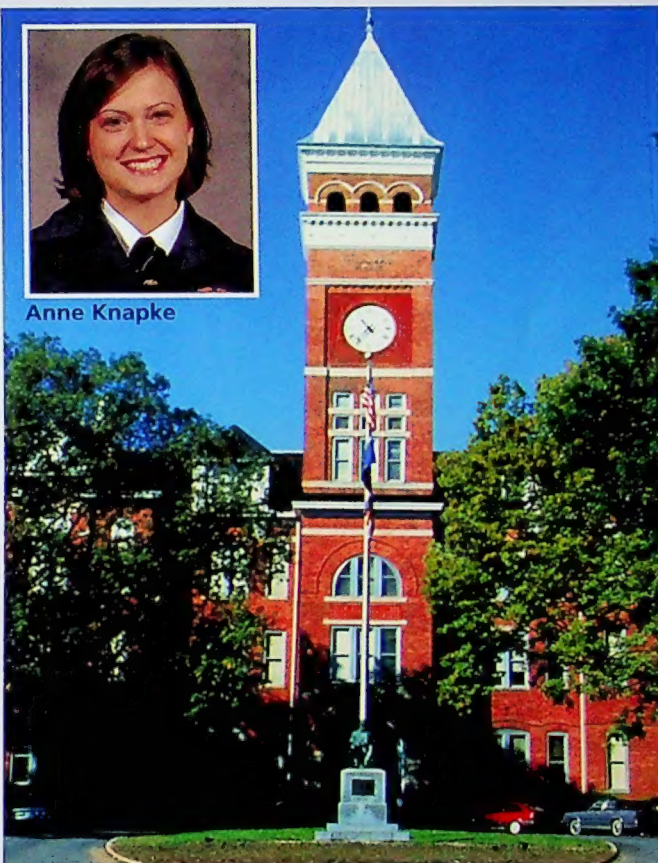
A significant addition to the convention program this year is a State FFA Awards and Recognition Banquet, to be held at the Anderson County Civic Center on Thursday evening, June 10. A highlight of the banquet



Anderson County Civic Center



Anne Knapke



Tillman Hall

session will be the SC FFA Star Farmer and the SC FFA Star in Agribusiness Awards Ceremony. **Anne Knapke**, National FFA Vice President from Oxford, Ohio, will present the keynote address. Recipients of the Honorary State FFA Degree will also be recognized. A number of SC FFA alumni, state legislators, school administrators, retired and former agricultural educators and their families are expected to attend the banquet session.

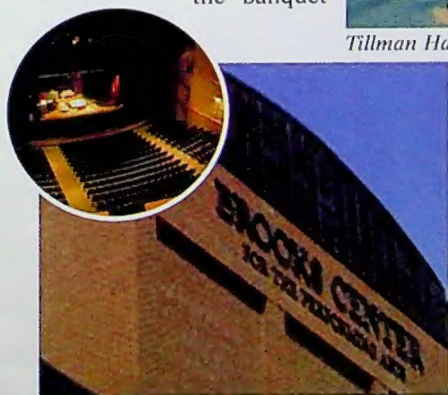
State FFA Degrees will be awarded June 11, and a new State Officer Team will be installed.

Visit the SC FFA Web site at [www.scaged.org](http://www.scaged.org) for convention details as they become available.

## State FFA Convention to be on National TV

The State FFA Convention will be videotaped for the production of a one-hour program on the RFD-TV Network and will be released in the summer. The network has the potential to reach 21 million homes in the United States.

The videotaping and program production will be handled by the radio/TV staff of Clemson University's Division of Public Service and Agriculture. Details of the taping schedule will be coordinated by the Director of the State FFA Office of Public Affairs.



Photos of Tillman Hall and Brooks Center courtesy of Clemson University.





DO NOT REFRIGERATE - KEEP BETWEEN 55°-60° F

DO NOT REFRIGERATE - KEEP BETWEEN 55°-60° F

Lee

HYDROPONIC TOMATOES

Farmer



Vine Ripened and Delicious

# Lee's Hydroponic Tomatoes

**P**aul and Mozel Lee, owners and operators of a family farm near Chesnee, S.C., are successfully producing and marketing hydroponic tomatoes. Mr. Lee, an FFA alumnus and a retired engineer, utilized his technical background to begin the highly sophisticated, specialty agricultural enterprise in 1997.

The Lees began with a 3,700-square-foot greenhouse, but after two years, their sales were so strong and the market demand so great that they were compelled to add another greenhouse.

*“We now have more than 10,000 square feet of production space in the two greenhouses.”*

“We now have more than 10,000 square feet of production space in the two greenhouses,” Mr. Lee said. “The construction of the second greenhouse enabled us to meet the increased demand for the high-quality and tasty tomatoes.”

The Lees market their tomatoes through Fresh Market grocery stores and health food stores in the Spartanburg, Greenville and Hendersonville, N.C., areas.

The production of tomatoes and other vegetables grown via the hydroponic method is more complex than by conventional agriculture. Mr. Lee's expertise as an engineer was beneficial when it came to maintaining the appropriate levels of pH (the quantity of hydrogen ions in the solutions) and EC (electrical conductivity — the strength of the fertilizer solution).

There are five nutrients and seven micronutrients used in the fertilizer. In addition to keeping the various nutrients properly balanced, there are always concerns regarding temperature, wind, sun and other environmental issues. The greenhouses are automatically controlled for temperature, humidity and fresh air. The temperature is maintained between 65° and 76°, humidity is maintained in the 70-percent to 75-percent range, and fresh air is brought in via electrically controlled fans every hour for three minutes. Every production aspect must be in proper balance for optimum growing conditions.

The production year begins for the Lees the last week of July, when seeds are planted. While the seeds are germinating and becoming small plants, tomato plants from the previous season are removed, the greenhouses cleaned and fumigated, and all pots emptied and sterilized. When the new plants are 2 weeks old, they are transplanted and placed in the greenhouses. Production begins in October, and harvest continues through June.

Bumblebees are brought in from Ohio to pollinate the plants for a six-week cycle. After the life cycle of the bumblebees ends, another shipment of bees is brought in for another pollination cycle, which continues for the nine months of production.

The plants are carefully monitored and managed on a daily basis, including close attention to control of white flies, removal of dropped leaves, thinning and picking the fruit for market. No herbicides or pesticides are used in the production of the tomatoes.

The Lees offer a shipping service for businesses or individuals who want to send gifts of vine-ripened tomatoes to customers or friends and family. The farm is located

at 1020 Martin Camp Rd, Chesnee, SC 29323, and the telephone number is 864-461-9274.

The Lees' delicious tomatoes are a unique gift that is 100-percent guaranteed.

Mrs. Lee takes a break from tomato production in the fall to host the local children and school groups that come to visit her six-acre pumpkin farm. She has entertained 5,000 to 6,000 children each year for more than 20 years.



*Information excerpted from an article by Miriam Pflug, Marketing Manager with AgSouth Farm Credit Association, and published in LEADER in 2003. Reprinted with permission. Photo courtesy of FFA Alumnus L. Doyle Oliver, Spartanburg, S.C.*



# South Carolinians Receive National Awards

## Witherspoon, Kelly Receive Honorary American FFA Degree

**S**tate Representative William D. Witherspoon of Conway, S.C., an FFA alumnus and chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, along with Dr. John W. Kelly, Vice President of Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University, were presented the Honorary American FFA Degree in Columbia, S.C., on February 26 by 2003 National FFA Vice President J.J. Jones of Ludell, Kan. This prestigious award is the highest honor bestowed upon friends and supporters by the National FFA Organization.



J.J. Jones, left, congratulates Rep. William D. Witherspoon.

## JoAnn Williams Named Outstanding Member of National Young Farmer Association



JoAnn Williams

JoAnn Williams, a member of the Britton's Neck, S.C., Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, was named Outstanding Member of the National Young Farmer Education Association for 2003 at the organization's recent annual convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mrs. Williams, wife of Edsel Williams, President-Elect of the National Young Farmer Education Association, is chairing a major committee of the upcoming National Young Farmer Institute scheduled for December in Orlando, Fla.



Dr. John W. Kelly, Vice President of Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University, with J.J. Jones.

## Edsel Williams is President-Elect of National Young Farmer Association



Edsel Williams

Edsel Williams, a member of the Britton's Neck, S.C., Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, has been named President-Elect of the National Young Farmer Education Association. He has previously served as the organization's National Secretary. An FFA alumnus, he is Executive Treasurer of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.





# Cox Named State FFA Executive Secretary-Treasurer



**H. Keith Cox**

H. Keith Cox of Latta, S.C., has been named State FFA Executive Secretary-Treasurer by Clemson University. He is also responsible for the general operation of the State FFA Leadership Center near North Myrtle Beach, S.C. His office is located at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence, S.C.

students, former State FFA Officer Zane Bryant, is Resident Director of the State FFA Leadership Center.

Cox was a co-founder of the Dillon County Farmers Association and facilitated numerous adult agricultural education courses.

Under his leadership, the Latta Agricultural Education Department was named Outstanding Program in the State, Outstanding Program in the Southern States and one of the top six programs in the nation in 1999.

Cox is a past president of the SC Agricultural Educators Association. He has also served two terms as a member of the SC FFA Board of Directors and two terms as a member of the SC FFA Foundation Board.

A member of the State and National Young Farmer and Agribusiness associations, Cox is a member of the National Agricultural Education Association and the National Education Association. He served as State FFA President prior to entering Clemson University. He is married to the former Sherryl Hyatt, and the couple has two children, Kerry Lee, 12, and Logan, 9.

A graduate of Clemson University with his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural education, he has taught agricultural education at Latta High School since 1986. During this time, he trained six Pee Dee Regional FFA Soil Classification and Land Treatment teams, four State Champion Soils teams, four Regional FFA Parliamentary Procedure teams and two State Champion teams. The Latta FFA Chapter received the Silver Emblem Award three times and the Gold Emblem Award three times. Cox coached a number of State FFA Officers and Regional FFA Star Farmers during his tenure. One of his

## Nixon is Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator in Southern States



**J. David Nixon**

J. David Nixon, agricultural education teacher at Crescent High School, Iva, S.C., has been named Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator in the Southern States by the National Agricultural Education Association.

evaluation, equine science, agricultural issues and tool identification. He has also had a student named state winner in the FFA Creed Speaking competition and a State FFA Star Farmer. Nixon has served as adviser to three State FFA Officers and to a National Finalist in the Agricultural Production Proficiency Award. A number of his students have been named National FFA Scholars.

Nixon was a National Sweet Sixteen National Finalist in the American Farm Bureau-sponsored Discussion Meet. He is a charter member of the Partners in Agricultural Leadership Team sponsored by the Altria Family of Companies and the American Farm Bureau.

A graduate of Clemson University with his B.S. degree in animal science and his M.S. degree in agricultural education, he has taught for five years. During this time, he has coached State Champion FFA teams in soil science, livestock



**Tom Welsh with Rachel McLeod**

## Welsh Recognized by SC FFA

Tom Welsh, executive vice president of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, Columbia, S.C., has been recognized as one of the Outstanding FFA Alumni in the 75-year history of the SC FFA Association. The award was presented to

Welsh by Rachel McLeod, State FFA Vice President, McBee, S.C., during a ceremony in Columbia, S.C.

Welsh was an FFA member in Lee County, where he grew up on a farm. He graduated from Clemson University with his B.S. degree in agricultural education and earned an advanced degree from the University of North Carolina. He is an avid supporter of the FFA Association and agricultural education.



## 2004 Highlights SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Annual Conference

**T**he SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association elected the following officers at its annual conference held in Myrtle Beach, S.C., earlier this year: John F. McGee, Anderson, S.C., President; Ricky McDaniel, Sumter, S.C., President-Elect; Edsel Williams, Britton's Neck, S.C., Executive Treasurer; Joey Link, Pendleton, S.C., Vice President representing the Piedmont Region; Zach Bush, Johnston, S.C., Vice President representing the Mid-State Region; Henry Herndon, Bamberg, S.C., Vice President representing the Lower-State Region; Roger Smith, Jefferson, S.C., Vice President representing the Pee Dee Region. Les Galloway, Darlington, S.C., will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as Past President. Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University, Florence, S.C., serves as adviser to the officers.

The Friday evening dinner session was held at Ripley's Aquarium, with entertainment sponsored by the Britton's Neck FFA Chapter. The Carolina Forest High School String Quintet provided the entertainment for the Saturday evening awards and recognition banquet. Sam Smith, a sales representative with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, served as auctioneer for the successful event.

Featured speakers at the annual convention included Dr. Dori Helms, Provost, Clemson University; Dr. John W. Kelly, Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture, Clemson University; Dr. Lewis Lynn, Trustee of Clemson University; and Dr. Laurie C. Lawson, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture. Dr. Marge Condrasky, Assistant Professor with the Food and Nutrition Program at Clemson University, gave a presentation about preparing healthy foods. Dr. Charles Privette with Clemson University's Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department provided a program about farm safety, and Alex Johnson, District Conservationist with the USDA-NRCS in Horry County, led a discussion on land management.



John McGee



Ricky McDaniel



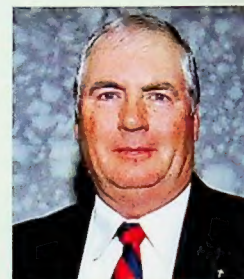
Joey Link



Zach Bush



Henry Herndon



Roger Smith



Edsel Williams



Les Galloway

## Sponsors of Young Farmer and Agribusiness Conference and Contests

Archer Daniels Midland  
Britton's Neck FFA Chapter  
Clemson University  
Coburg Dairy  
DeKalb Seed  
Delta and Pineland  
Diversified Fundraisers  
Dorchester Tractor  
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Pee Dee Federal  
Savings Bank  
Pioneer Hi-Bred  
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SCANA Inc.

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S.C. Pork Board  
Southern States Inc.  
Sunbelt Ag Expo  
Sunbelt Landscaping  
Services  
USDA NASS  
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# State Young Farmer and Agribusiness Award Winners



**Don Boice**, left, with the S.C. Farm Credit Associations, congratulates **Billy Jenkins**.



**Timmy Benton**



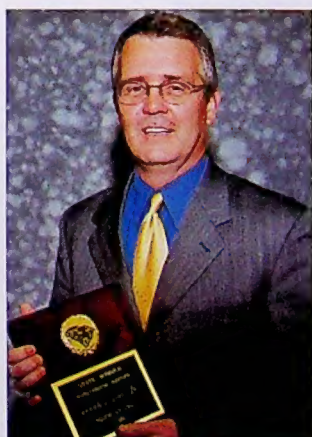
**Clark Burroughs**, left, with **Sam Smith**



**Ray Jameson**



**Chris Corzine**, left, with **Jeremy Holtzclaw**



**Frank R. Stover, Jr.**

## Outstanding Young Farmer

**Billy Jenkins**, Jefferson, Central Chapter  
Sponsored by the S.C. Farm Credit Associations

## Outstanding Agribusiness

**Timmy Benton**, Benton Feed and Seed, Walterboro; Colleton-Bamberg Chapter  
Sponsored by Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank

## Outstanding Chapter

**Crescent Chapter**, **Jeremy Holtzclaw**, President; **Chris Corzine**, Advisor  
Sponsored by Sunbelt Landscaping Services

## Outstanding Chapter President

**Jeremy Holtzclaw**, Crescent Chapter  
Sponsored by Helena

## Outstanding Chapter Advisor

**Frank R. Stover Jr.**, Pelion Chapter  
Sponsored by Learning Labs Inc.

## Conservation

**Joel Mills**, Chesterfield, Central Chapter  
Sponsored by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Beef Cattle

**Richard Wood**, Hickory Tavern Chapter  
Sponsored by Nance Farms

## Irrigated Corn

**Clark Burroughs**, Sumter Chapter  
Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred and DeKalb

## Non-Irrigated Corn

**Ray Jameson**, Edisto Chapter  
Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred and DeKalb

## Cotton

**Clark Burroughs**, Sumter Chapter  
Sponsored by Delta and Pineland

## Small Grain (Wheat)

**Clark Burroughs**, Sumter Chapter  
Sponsored by Mixon Seed Company

## Irrigated Soybeans

**Ray Jameson**, Edisto Chapter  
Sponsored by Archer Daniel Midlands

## Non-Irrigated Soybeans

**Gerald Wise**, Britton's Neck Chapter  
Sponsored by Archer Daniel Midlands

## Farm Shop Award

**George Ulmer**, Orangeburg Chapter  
Sponsored by Dorchester Tractor

## Energy Efficiency

**Al Jeffords**, Darlington County Chapter  
Sponsored by Duke Power, Progress Energy and SCANA Inc.



## SC FFA Career Development Champions Wagener-Salley, Abbeville FFA Soils Teams in National Finals

**T**he Wagener-Salley FFA Team took first-place honors and the Abbeville Team was runner-up in the State FFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Finals held in Orangeburg County. The two teams were awarded expenses-paid trips to participate in the National Finals, set for May 4-6, 2004, in Oklahoma City, Okla. Chris Myers, a member of the Wagener-Salley team, was high individual scorer and won an additional expenses-paid trip to the 2004 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky. Kurt Thompson, a member of the Abbeville team, tied for state runner-up high individual

scorer with Ethan Sansbury, a member of the Latta team. Both were awarded a gold watch.

The State FFA Soils Competition is sponsored by the SC FFA Association along with Duke Energy, Progress Energy, SCANA Inc. and the S.C. Conservation Districts Foundation. Technical assistance is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Administrative assistance is coordinated by the Clemson University Agricultural Education staff and the Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization.



Wagener-Salley FFA Advisor **Allen Williams**, left, with team members **Courtney Williams**, **Stephanie Carver**, **Chris Myers** and **Bryan Gilbert**.



Abbeville FFA Advisor **Fred Raines**, left, with team members **Tyler Brown**, **Bryan Barnes**, **Kurt Thompson**, **Eric Patterson** and **Luke Scroggs**.



From left, team members **Justin Reaves**, **Kyle Lucas**, **Donnie Skipper**, **Ricky Thompson** and **Drew Shumpert** with FFA Advisor **Frank R. Stover Jr.**

## Pelion FFA Wildlife Team Takes Top Honors in Wildlife Management

The Pelion FFA Wildlife Team took top honors in the State FFA-sponsored Wildlife Management Finals, which were held at the National Wild Turkey Federation headquarters in Edgefield, S.C. Team member **Ricky Thompson** was the second high individual scorer, and **Donnie Skipper** was the third high individual scorer. **Frank R. Stover Jr.** is team advisor.



## Hillcrest FFA Horse Judging Team to Compete in National Finals



From left, team member Erica Wellington, FFA Advisor Clark Woods, and team members Ashley Rairigh, Brandy Gibson and Elizabeth "Lil" Gregory.

**T**he Hillcrest FFA Horse Judging Team took top state honors in the SC FFA-sponsored competition and won an expenses-paid trip to participate in the National Finals at the National FFA Convention in

Louisville, Ky., later this year. Brandy Gibson was high individual scorer in the competition.

Clark Woods, agricultural education teacher at Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville, S.C., is team advisor.

## Thurmond FFA Tractor Operators Team Tops in State Finals



Team Advisor Dan Henderson, left, agricultural education teacher at Strom Thurmond Technology Center, with team members Rody Brown, Benjamin Holmes, W.C. Wall, and Matt Robinson on the tractor. Benjamin G. Rodgers, back right, Clemson University agricultural education student teacher, also assisted the team.

The Strom Thurmond FFA Tractor Operators Team took top state honors in the SC FFA-sponsored competition held at the state fairgrounds in Columbia, S.C. Team member Matt Robinson achieved a perfect score, and Rody Brown was the third high individual scorer in the event. The competition is designed to demonstrate skill and safety in operating a tractor with attachments.

Dan Henderson, agricultural education teacher at Strom Thurmond Technology Center, is team advisor.

## AgriBiz! FFA Spotlight

### Chester FFA President Writes National Winning No-Till Farming Essay



Peter Wilson

Peter Wilson, a Chester High School senior and President of the Chester FFA Chapter, recently received first-place national honors in the No-Till Farming Essay competition sponsored by Phoenix Rotary Equipment Ltd.

Wilson was awarded a \$2,500 college scholarship. He has been accepted to Clemson University later this year, where he will study agriculture and applied economics.

## Central FFA Officers

AgriBiz! proudly salutes Central FFA Chapter Vice President Phillip Leonard, President Jeff Brown and Sentinel Travis King for their valuable assistance to the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs with the SC FFA Association exhibits during this academic year.





# Lexington County FFA Members Recognized



From left, Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter President **Brandy Collins**, Gilbert FFA Chapter President **Bryan Smith**, Pelion FFA Chapter President **Caleb Geiger**, S.C. Representative **Larry Koon** and Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter President **Austin Hill**.

**L**exington County FFA members were honored at a recognition banquet at Harmon's Tree Farm on February 19.

The event, sponsored by the Lexington County Farm-City Committee and coordinated by Frances Price of Gilbert, S.C., was held to launch National FFA Week in Lexington County. The keynote speaker was Kirby Player, Director of Student Recruitment with the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University.

Special guests included S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Charles R. Sharpe, S.C. Senator Nikki Setzler, S.C. Representatives Larry Koon, Marion Frye and McLain R. Toole and Clemson University agricultural education officials.

## FFA Chapters Awarded PalmettoPride Grants

The Branchville and Calhoun Falls FFA chapters received a PalmettoPride Challenge for the Environment Grant during a recent ceremony in Columbia, S.C.

"The grants give schools the opportunity to focus on the importance of litter prevention and beautification and gets the students out of the classroom and into the communities," said keynote speaker Edward Falco, environmental education specialist with the S.C. Department of Education.

"Our education grant program give students the opportunity to play an active role in making South Carolina litter free," said David Thomas, state senator and chairman of PalmettoPride. PalmettoPride recently entered into a partnership with the S.C. Department of Education to launch a K-12 anti-litter curriculum called "Keeping South Carolina Beautiful."

"The Branchville chapter received a \$3,500 grant and will use it to promote litter prevention and litter cleanup and to beautify the Branchville community by landscaping areas around the school and other public property," said M. Pat Black, agricultural education teacher.

The Calhoun Falls chapter received a \$1,900 grant. "The funds will be used to landscape the front area of the high school and provide one main entrance for beautification and security," said Calvert Sherard, agricultural education teacher.



From left, State Senator and PalmettoPride Chairman **David Thomas**, Branchville FFA Chapter Secretary **LaWanda West**, Chapter President **Phillip Freeman** and FFA Advisor **M. Pat Black**.



From left, **Calvert Sherard**, agricultural education teacher at Calhoun Falls, with **Jonathan Dorn**, chapter president; **Michael Burdette**, chapter vice president for student development; **Clint Burden**, chapter vice president for community development; and State Senator **David Thomas**.



# Clemson Collegiate FFA Update



Harry Dubose

**T**he Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization honored a number of supporters of agricultural education during its annual awards and recognition banquet held earlier this year.

**Harry Dubose**, agricultural education teacher at Carolina Forest High School near Myrtle Beach, S.C., addressed banquet attendees. He received the Clemson Collegiate FFA

Outstanding Advocate for Agriculture Education Award.

**Clark Woods**, agricultural education teacher at Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville, S.C., was presented with the Outstanding Agricultural Educator Award. Two of his former students, Annette Kirton and Blake Berry, made the presentation. Kirton is agricultural education teacher at Latta High School, Latta, S.C., and Berry, a former State FFA President, is a senior at Clemson University majoring in agricultural education.



Lydia and Kevin Yon

**Kevin and Lydia Yon** of Ridge Spring, S.C., received the organization's Outstanding Advocate for Agriculture Award. The Yons are successful

beef cattle farmers and are widely recognized leaders in the beef industry.

New officers of the Collegiate FFA Organization for 2004 are: Carrie Meetze, President; Allison Nance, Vice President; Arron Miles, Secretary; Kyle Hatcher, Treasurer;



From left, **Clark Woods**, agricultural education teacher at Hillcrest High School, with former students **Annette Kirton** and **Blake Berry**.



New officers of the Collegiate FFA Organization at Clemson University.

Ashley Granata, Reporter; and Matthew Lutton, Sentinel. Jaime Keller is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Council Representative. Dr. Tom Dobbins, Program Coordinator for Agricultural Education at Clemson University, is advisor to the group. Dr. Donnie King is co-advisor.

## Agricultural Educators Complete Technology Course

Ten South Carolina agricultural educators have completed a comprehensive course in small engine technology sponsored and conducted by the Briggs & Stratton Corporation in Milwaukee, Wis.

The intense 40-hour, hands-on course covered engine design, carburetion and electrical systems, including engine overhaul and repair. Numerous training aids were made available to the teachers to enable them to transfer the new knowledge to their students.

Agricultural educators who completed the course are **Joan Alexander**, Florence Technology Center; **Willie Capehart**, Holly Hill-Roberts High School; **Linwood Chestnut**, Marion County Technology Center; **Jerry Davis**, Indian Land High School; **W. Pat Earle**, McBee High School; **Chris Edge**, Clover High School; **Garrett Howard**, Pendleton High School; **Ernest Manning**, Fairfield Technology Center; **Mindy Sandifer**, Barnwell Technology Center; and **Abbie Treadwell-Petrowski**, a Clemson University graduate student.



# Articulation Agreement

## High School Horticulture Students are Successful at Spartanburg Technical College



**Rusty Forrester** prunes branches from a Chinese Elm during a recent Urban Forestry Conference at Spartanburg Technical College. **Bo Hawthorne**, right, observes the procedure.

**S**tudents who enroll in the horticulture program at Spartanburg Technical College often have a good hands-on approach to learning. Much of their success is due to the outstanding horticulture programs in high schools across the state.

Rusty Forrester, one of the students enrolled in the program, became interested in horticulture when Randy Settle, horticulture instructor at Swofford Technology Center near Inman, S.C., addressed his ninth-grade class. Forrester enrolled at Swofford the following school year. He attributes his success at Swofford to Settle's teaching and leadership skills, which create a good environment in which students can showcase a positive work ethic. Forrester said Settle inspires students to work with a professional attitude and behavior by his own example.

Forrester made the dean's list his first semester at Spartanburg Technical College as a horticulture student and is looking forward to an internship this summer. Upon graduation from Spartanburg Tech, he plans to transfer to Clemson University by taking advantage of the partnership between the two institutions. He plans to become an educator so he can share his knowledge about the opportunities in the green industry with others.

Another Spartanburg Technical College horticulture student, Bo Hawthorne, became interested in horticulture while enrolled in an agricultural education course at Woodmont High School. He later enrolled in the horticulture program at

Spartanburg Technical College has articulation agreements with 18 high schools in South and North Carolina. This agreement provides for a student to exempt the "Introduction to Horticulture" course with proper documentation by their high school horticulture instructor.

South Carolina high schools and career centers that have articulation agreements with Spartanburg Technical College are:

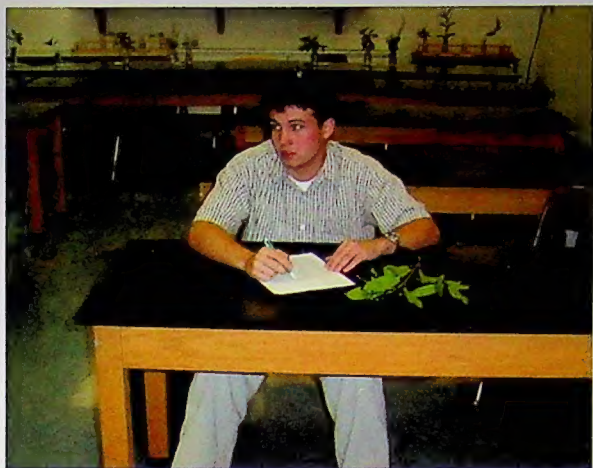
Aiken Career and Technology Center\*  
 Ridgeview High School\*  
 H.B. Swofford Career Center\*  
 Anderson County Technology Center\*  
 Union High School\*  
 R.D. Anderson Technology Center\*  
 Lexington Technology Center\*  
 Blue Ridge High School\*  
 B.J. Skelton Career Center\*  
 Berea High School\*  
 Daniel Morgan Career Center\*  
 Laurens High School\*  
 Cherokee Technology Center\*  
 Golden Strip Career Center\*  
 Travelers Rest High School  
 Chester County Career Center  
 Ridge Spring-Monetta High School

*\*Horticulture students are currently enrolled or have been enrolled in the Spartanburg Technical College Horticulture Program.*

For additional information on the articulation agreement, call Jimmy Painter, head of Spartanburg Technical College's Horticulture Department, at 864-591-3857. For more details about the Horticulture Program at Spartanburg Technical College, visit [www.stcsc.edu/hort](http://www.stcsc.edu/hort).

*(Information and photos for this article were provided by Doug McAbee, horticulture instructor at Spartanburg Technical College)*





**Ben Baker** takes a Weed Identification Quiz in the plant pest course.

the Golden Strip Career Center near Greenville, S.C., headed up by Barry Burdette, where he learned a lot about turf grass equipment and pruning ornamentals. After high school, he worked for a while in a job unrelated to

horticulture, but soon entered Greenville Technical College before transferring to Spartanburg Technical College to pursue a degree in horticulture.

Hawthorne, who made the dean's list last semester, will do an internship at a container nursery. Upon graduation, he plans to enter into landscape design and installation until he earns enough money to start his own greenhouse business.

Ben Baker, another dean's list scholar at Spartanburg Technical College, was a student of Josh McCall, horticulture instructor at the Daniel Morgan Career Center near Spartanburg, S.C. While in high school, he became interested in landscape design and won a scholarship to attend Spartanburg Technical College. Baker's interests have expanded to include landscape installation and propagation. He will intern this summer with a local landscaping company. His future plans include owning a small landscape and maintenance company.

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## Upcoming Agricultural Education Activities

### S.C. Agricultural Educators and FFA Plant Presentation

State Capitol, Columbia, S.C.  
Wednesday, April 21 • 11:30 a.m.

### State FFA Convention

Clemson University, June 9 - 11

### SC FFA Leadership Center Education Programs

May 31 - June 4, June 14 - 18  
June 21 - 25, June 28 - July 2

### National Ag Leadership Conference

Memphis, Tennessee, July 4 - 7  
*Sponsored by the National Young Farmer Association*

### S.C. Agricultural Educators Association Conference

Clemson University, July 21 - 23

### SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Summer Conference and Tour

Clemson University, July 23 - 24



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